



Indiana Career Council Core 40 Subcommittee

During the 2014 Legislative Session, House Enrolled Act 1213 (Indiana Code 20-19-6-9) was passed, requiring the Indiana Career Council to appoint a subcommittee that will examine the current Core 40 diploma offerings and make recommendations regarding the Core 40 and the possible need for a new Career and Technical Education Diploma. Thus, the Core 40 Subcommittee was established.

Co-chaired by Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers and Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz, subcommittee membership consists of a least one member from each of the 11 Indiana Works Councils, as well as members representing career and technical education (CTE), IDOE, CHE, community colleges, and industry.

The subcommittee is charged with both reviewing the current Core 40 diploma course offerings, including types of courses and diplomas offered, and making recommendations to the State Board of Education (SBOE) concerning: changing course requirements for the Core 40 diploma which may include the total number of academic credits required; changing the types of diplomas offered, including the need for a career and technical education diploma; and examining and making recommendations concerning career and technical education offerings.

The inaugural meeting took place on June 10, 2014. The meeting included an overview of the subcommittee's duties and responsibilities, as well as a historical overview of Core 40. The subcommittee has since met twice, discussing topics such as post-secondary admission requirements, high school diploma options and their respective requirements, graduation plans, pathway plans, degree mapping, academic and employability skills and high school assessments.

In an effort to begin focusing research, analysis, and evaluation on specific, topical areas, the subcommittee created three taskforces including the Diploma Structure Taskforce, the Diploma Content Taskforce and the Math Pathways Taskforce. They are tasked with the following:

Diploma Structure Taskforce

- Examine in-depth each of the diploma structures (General, Core 40, Academic Honors, and Technical Honors) to understand what value each of them hold with employers and postsecondary providers.
- Consider best practices for showing the competencies that students have earned while in high school, regardless of which diploma they have achieved.
- Determine recommendations for changes to diploma structure, including whether or not there is a need for a career and technical education diploma.

Diploma Content Taskforce

- Explore best practices for ensuring that graduation plans, career pathway plans, and post-secondary degree mapping align for all students.
- Consider promising and innovative practices in scheduling that allow for expanded access and greater flexibility in the number of courses offered.
- Determine which course offerings are aligned with Indiana's college and career ready standards and can crosswalk to fulfill multiple requirements within the diploma structure
- Make recommendations for changes to course requirements for general, core 40, academic honors, and technical honors diplomas to ensure each Indiana student has enough flexibility in his or her schedule to pursue a college and career pathway plan appropriate for his or her individual goals, knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Math Pathways Taskforce

- Explore best practices for offering differentiated and rigorous math courses that prepare students for college and career. Examine what is currently happening in Indiana, as well as other states; and
- Determine recommendations on structure and minimum math requirements for all diploma types.

Each taskforce held its inaugural meeting on September 8, 2014. They are to meet monthly through May of 2015, at which time they will make their recommendations to the Core 40 Subcommittee.

The subcommittee's review and recommendations must be completed by October 1, 2015. Based on the subcommittee's work, CHE and the Career Council shall make recommendations to the SBOE. The SBOE must act on the recommendations by December 1, 2015.

The next Core 40 Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, 2014.